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172

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(b) (1)  
(b) (3)



CIA/OEA

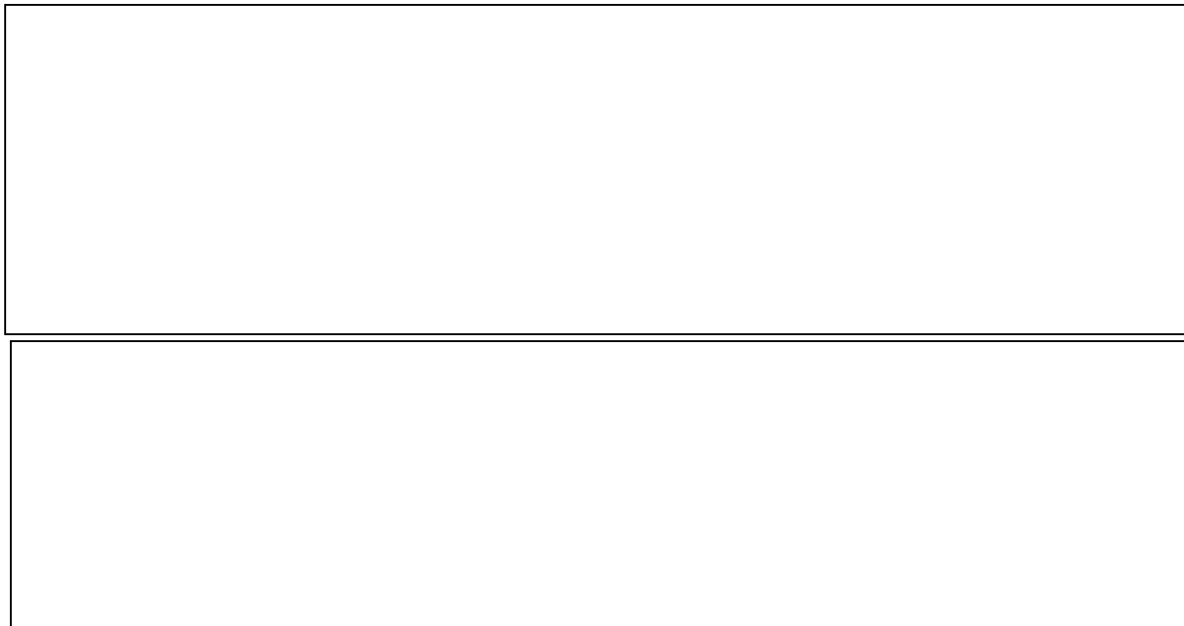
11 January 1990

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## China and the Indian-Pakistani Nuclear Issue



Chinese leaders view Pakistan as an important counterweight to Indian aspirations in South Asia. Moreover, following the cutoff in US military aid to Pakistan, Islamabad may see Beijing as the sole guarantor of Pakistani security against Indian aggression. If New Delhi decided to escalate its production of nuclear weapons, Beijing's response would seek to preserve Chinese nuclear superiority and protect Pakistani sovereignty:



(1)

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If India made an effort to lessen the threat of nuclear conflict in South Asia, we believe that China would not respond with reciprocal force reductions. We see little indication that Beijing is rethinking its strategic modernization priorities because of US-Soviet arms control agreements and we believe Beijing would be extremely reluctant to enter into negotiations that could reveal Chinese vulnerabilities and limitations.

[REDACTED]

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